While allocations of foodgrains for BPL and AAY categories are made @ 35 kg per family per month, allocations for APL category are made depending upon the availability of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Allocations of foodgrains for the APL category were made in larger quantities during earlier period to liquidate surplus stocks available in the Central Pool. However, keeping in view the declining stocks position of foodgrains in the Central Pool from 2006-07, the allocation of wheat and rice under TPDS to States/UTs for the APL category have been rationalized with effect from June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively, on the basis of offtake levels during the previous 3 years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Presently the State of Kerala is being made monthly allocation of 28,833 tons of foodgrains (17,056 tons rice and 11,777 tons wheat) for APL category. Allocation of APL rice to Kerala during 2008-09 is as per applicable allocation norms *i.e.* based on average of offtake during 2006-07 and 2007-08. There is no reduction or discontinuation of rice quota to the State.

However, keeping in view the requests received from the State Government during the current year 2008-09 including the memorandum to PM under reference, as an exception to applicable allocation norms, the Central Government has:- made additional allocation of 89,000 tons of rice at APL rate to Kerala, thus increasing the total allocation of rice to the State under APL category to last year's offtake level of 2,94,000 tons.

Short supply of essential items due to truck operators' strike

1307. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were short supplies of essential items due to truck operators' strike in July, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of strike on prices of essential items; and

(d) the action taken against the hoarders during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) As per information gathered from different Newspapers, the truck operators' strike began on 2 July, 2008 and was called off on 4th July 2008, morning. There was no short supply reported of essential items due to truck operators' strike from 2nd to 4 July, 2008, as the retail prices of essential commodities namely wheat, rice, sugar, gram dal, tur dal, groundnut oil, vanaspati, mustard oil, potato, onion, tea, salt, atta and milk were either steady or declining during the period 1st to 7th July,2008 in 18 centers across the country monitored by this Department. The average price of perishables namely, fruits and vegetables were largely showing steady or declining trend. Prices of only beans, capsicum, cauliflower, cucumber, brinjal and grapes increased by 16 to 20 per cent during 2nd to 4th July 2008 as per data received from Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee, Delhi.

(d) The impact of the truck operators' strike on prices of essential items was by and large negligible, as the strike was for two days only. However, action is separately being taken on a

continuous basis against those found violating the Essential Commodities Act from time to time. During the year 2008, up to 30.11.2008. the number of persons convicted for various offences is 775. No information is available on how many of these eases were initiated during the period of the strike of the truck operators.

Subsidy in operation of PDS

1308.SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for providing subsidy in operating PDS in the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 uptil now, head-wise;

(b) how much of the subsidy has reached the consumers directly;

(c) how many commodities are being regularly distributed to both BPL and APL ration card holders, name of the States and respective commodities;

(d) whether Government has any programme to supply pulses and edible oils to BPL families and other poor families under APL category; and

(e) if so, the details of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As informed by Food Corporation of India (FCI), the amount spent by FCI for providing subsidy in operating PDS in the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

	APL	BPL	AAY	Total
2006-07 (Prov.)	4087	9754	7833	21674
2007-08 (RE)	5767	12070	9786	27623
2008-09 (BE) up to September, 2008	3233	2349	4940	10522

(b) Food subsidy is released to FCI and State Governments undertaking decentralised procurement for the quantity of foodgrains distributed under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). The difference between the economic cost of foodgrains and issue prices is borne by the Central Government as food subsidy. No subsidy is released to the consumers directly by the Central Government.

(c) Wheat and rice are regularly distributed to BPL and APL ration card holders in all the States. Coarsegrain like Jowar, Bajra, Maize etc. are also distributed in lieu of wheat and rice by some States as per demand. Also sugar and kerosene oil are distributed to BPL ration card holders. Besides these commodities, some additional commodities are also distributed by some States through PDS outlets. A Statement showing State-wise additional commodities distributed through PDS outlets is at Statement-I (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The Central Government has introduced a scheme for distribution of upto 10 lakh MT of imported edible oils in 2008-09 with a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg. through State Government/UTs @ 1Kg per ration card per month through PDS shops/ other outlets. Depending upon the availability